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OCT 27 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dr. Thomas K. Parell
1400 Market St.
Martinsville, IN 46151

October 15, 2008

To the Commissioners of Ravalli County:

I want to express my adamant lack of support for your proposed set back policy. I have no intentions of developing my property, especially that which borders the East Fork. If anything, I am working diligently, and very much alone, to reforest and repair the damage brought to our property by the 2000 fires and subsequent mudslide. Your manipulative, one-sided power grabbing tactics have made me stand firm for my rights as a landowner. I have given the zoning documentation serious consideration and might have found it workable. But your commitment to the setback has forced me to stand against the whole zoning plan.

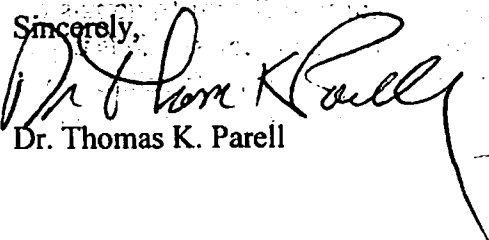
The three commissioners that have initiated this zoning and set-back policy are poor representatives of the community. The general public does not support the plan or any variation thereof and yet you insist on foisting it upon us. Please stop demeaning us by disregarding the fact that we don't want these policies. You blatantly tell us that our opinions are of no value. As far as you are concerned it is not a matter of whether we will or will not have zoning, but only how the final regulations will be worded. It is a cheap negotiating tactic. We have consistently said "NO" and you have arrogantly responded, "that's not an option". You "Clintonize" scientific data - only taking that which supports your position and disregard, or worse denigrate, the rest. You demean us and dupe state legislation by hiding your real motives behind the thin veil of the fictitiously altruistic idea that your are doing this for the safety, health and well being of the people of Ravalli county.

Also, it is apparent there are a number of ulterior motives at work here, many of which are self-serving. To mention one of these motives, the most despicable, at least one of the commissioners is determined to make a political career for his or herself. You are using this issue and our community to launch your career and garner recognition from more influential party members.

I recommend that you stop bastardizing the good qualities of a "green agenda" to advance your personal agendas and distract this community from its fundamental need to address and solve the issue of a poor local economy. To think that the local economy can make it on the building industry and tourism alone is a pipe dream. The money being spent on the zoning project, whether from donations or taxes, would be better spent addressing the issue of local economic development. That people must live on income derived from \$10.00 and \$15.00 per hour jobs, let alone those that only pay minimum-wage, is a travesty. A healthy economy would permit people to support themselves in a reasonable fashion and give them the time to properly address and care for the environment.

As a note, I have canceled my subscription to the Ravalli Republic. I have read over two years of articles on this matter and it is clear that the paper doesn't fairly represent both sides of the issue. Its intent is to influence public opinion. The great journalist of our time worked to bring truth to light. They were willing to change their positions if facts demanded it. This is not a quality shared by the journalists of the Ravalli County Republic that have covered this story.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas K. Parell